

**House Resolution**

**No. 26**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Garrick**

March 9, 2010

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House Resolution No. 26—Relative to Irish American Heritage Month.

- 1 WHEREAS, Millions of Irish people, faced with severe hardship  
2 due to famine and poverty in their nation, immigrated to the United  
3 States over the last several centuries in search of a more promising  
4 future for themselves and their families; and  
5 WHEREAS, Irish Americans initially suffered prejudice and  
6 discrimination upon first arriving in the United States. As the years  
7 went on, Irish Americans became very involved in the community  
8 and made numerous contributions in all aspects of American  
9 society and culture, especially in California; and  
10 WHEREAS, Irish Americans played vital roles in the  
11 development of the United States. Nine Irish Americans were  
12 signers of the Declaration of Independence, and 19 Presidents of  
13 the United States have been of Irish heritage, including John F.  
14 Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton; and  
15 WHEREAS, Many people of Irish descent have contributed to  
16 great movements that have helped to shape our country and its  
17 role in the world, including Mother Jones, labor activist; Lucy  
18 Burns, activist in the Women’s Movement; and Senator George  
19 Mitchell, negotiator of the Irish Peace Accord; and  
20 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have also played a major role in  
21 California politics. Many governors, legislative leaders, city  
22 mayors, and other public officials who have shaped the

1 development of California over the years have been of Irish  
2 descent; and

3 WHEREAS, Irish Americans were very involved in the  
4 development of infrastructure throughout the United States,  
5 especially in California. This included work on railroads and  
6 bridges that connected the West to the East. The Irish were also  
7 instrumental in the building of dams, roads, canals, and buildings  
8 that expanded greatly in the late 1800s; and

9 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have made their mark in  
10 pursuit of public safety and have risked or lost their lives carrying  
11 out their duties; and

12 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have served with distinction in  
13 every war that this nation has fought. Many of the outstanding  
14 soldiers who fought for American freedom in the Revolutionary  
15 War were of Irish descent. Since then, Irish Americans have  
16 sacrificed their lives in every other war in which the United States  
17 has fought; and

18 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have contributed greatly to  
19 the United States economy, including Henry Ford; Alexander  
20 Stewart, the inventor of the American department store; and  
21 Cathleen Black, president, Hearst Magazines; and

22 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the American  
23 literary tradition through great authors, including Flannery  
24 O'Connor, Eugene O'Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mary McCarthy,  
25 Tom Clancy, and Frank McCourt; and

26 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to American  
27 entertainment through such stars as actors Jack Nicholson, John  
28 Wayne, and George Clooney; actor and comedian Bill Murray;  
29 actress Grace Kelly; actress and comedian Rosie O'Donnell; actor  
30 and singer Bing Crosby; actress and singer Rosemary Clooney;  
31 and actor and director Edward Burns; and

32 WHEREAS, Today, over 44 million Americans claim Irish  
33 heritage, and they continue to contribute to the American and  
34 Californian political, economic, and cultural landscapes; now,  
35 therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the  
37 Assembly, in honor of the multitude of contributions that Irish  
38 Americans have made to make this a better country and state for  
39 all people, designates March 2010 to be Irish American Heritage  
40 Month in California, and calls upon the people of the state to

1 observe the month of March with appropriate ceremonies,  
2 programs, and activities, especially on March 17, since everyone  
3 is Irish on St. Patrick's Day; and be it further  
4 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
5 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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